

City of Littleton as a member of the Denver Metro Mayors Caucus and as an alternate Board Member on the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Prior to his public service as the City of Littleton Mayor, Beckman served our country and state in the United States Army and the Colorado Army National Guard; ultimately retiring at the rank of Colonel. In Littleton, he worked to protect others throughout his long career with the Littleton Police Department, until his retirement as Division Chief in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Beckman represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I commend Mayor Beckman; he has served his community, our state, and our country tirelessly over a long and impressive career in public service. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF SEMINOLE, FLORIDA ON EARNING THE DESIGNATION OF A PURPLE HEART CITY

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the City of Seminole, Florida on earning the designation of a Purple Heart City.

The Purple Heart recognizes members of the Armed Service who have been wounded or killed while serving our country. It is the oldest military decoration awarded by the United States; beginning under General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. As originally conceived, the award recognizes meritorious military service with the Badge of Military Merit. President Washington's merit award was revived with the Purple Heart on his 200th Birthday, to honor those who served the United States Armed Forces with distinction.

The City of Seminole first sought to recognize men and women currently serving, veterans, and those who gave their lives protecting our freedom when the City Council passed the Red, White, and Blue initiative in 2014.

Mayor Leslie Waters and the City of Seminole wanted to display the city's patriotism by fitting every city building and park with a lighted flag pole. Military members were invited to be present at the city's parades and community events, and the city's website was updated to provide instructions for the proper display of the American flag for businesses and homeowners who wished to join in this celebration of patriotism.

After two years of working towards the Purple Heart designation, Mayor Waters secured the honor on March 28, 2017. This distinction publicly acknowledges the City of Seminole's gratitude to the men and women who have served in our military, and continued commitment to recognizing the price they have paid to ensure our freedom. Through civic education programs, military community involvement, and public works honoring the American flag, the City of Seminole demonstrates its commitment to our nation's veterans.

I would like to commend the city of Seminole in its efforts to honor the sacrifices made by our Purple Heart veterans. I am honored and humbled to represent so many veterans in the City of Seminole and across the 13th United States Congressional District of Florida, which is home to over 90,000 veterans and the distinguished C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in Bay Pines.

Mr. Speaker, please join me once again to commemorate the City of Seminole on gaining the designation of a Purple Heart City, as we continue to appreciate and celebrate those who have sacrificed for this country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call votes 494, 495, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call Vote 494: NAY, and on Roll Call Vote 495: AYE.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. HOBART KELLISTON McDOWELL, III

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Hobart Kelliston McDowell, III—a beloved husband, father, and grandfather—who passed away on September 9, 2017 at the age of 64.

Known to his family and friends as Kelly, Hobart grew up in Northern Virginia on a horse farm and attended Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. In 1974, Hobart graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Economics and Political Science. He received his juris doctorate from UCLA Law School in 1977 and practiced law in Southern California for 30 years.

Hobart later moved to El Segundo where he served as Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and on the El Segundo Investment Advisory Committee. He was elected to City Council for the City of El Segundo in 1988 and served as a member for 12 years. In 2004, he was elected Mayor of the City of El Segundo and fought tirelessly on behalf of his constituents for six years. Hobart was instrumental in addressing issues pertaining to the Los Angeles International Airport's modernization plan and was a powerful voice in protecting the Los Angeles Air Force Base by highlighting its importance to the South Bay. During this time, Hobart also served as Chairman of the Consortium of Cities where he worked closely with city officials on multiple planning projects. He was deeply committed to ensuring that El Segundo residents had a voice at the decision-making table. After his retirement as Mayor, Hobart continued to be involved in the region as the Executive Director of the Independent Cities Association, a non-profit group consisting of 32 cities in Southern California.

Hobart is survived by his wife Lisa, his son Kelliston, his brothers Josh and Robert, his

sister Tina and his step-grandchildren, Tommy, Ruby and Tanner. I hope that his family will take comfort in the incredible legacy that he established as a dedicated community leader. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

RECOGNIZING VICENTE V. GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Vicente V. Garza, of Laredo, Texas.

Vicente V. Garza was born on August 5th, 1931 to Vicente Garza, Sr. and Julieta V. Garza in Laredo, Texas. He graduated with honors from St. Augustine High School and then from St. Edwards University in 1951 with a degree in Business Administration. He would soon form many business relationships in Laredo and manage several retail stores and hotels throughout the area. Eventually, through hard work and dedication, he founded El Rio Department Store and contributed to the development of the Riverdrive Mall in Laredo, Texas.

A devoted Catholic and parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church, Vicente contributed to the Laredo Catholic Consolidation Fund. His firm belief in the educational system led him to serve on the Laredo Community College Education Foundation Board, the Mary Help of Christians School Advisory Board, and sponsor various scholarship programs. Mr. Garza had been named Laredo Morning Times Man of the Year for his efforts.

Mr. Garza was successful both in business and in serving the community. He understood the importance of giving back to others. That is why he was committed to improving the education system. He wanted to ensure that those pursuing their education would have the opportunity to accomplish their ambitions. Mr. Garza's life and work serve as an example to us all.

Vicente is survived by his wife Irma, his daughter Irma P. Trautmann (Robert), siblings Ricardo Garza (Alma), Eduardo Garza, Violeta Zertuche (Ramon), Virginia Shuey (Rick), Juanita Fontaine, Julieta Averitt, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Vicente V. Garza.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 516 regarding "On Motion to Recommend with Instructions" (H.R. 3697). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

I missed Roll Call vote number 517 "On Passage of the Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act" (H.R. 3697). Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

I missed Roll Call vote number 518 "On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No.